THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware that a Pakistani delegation led by Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Economic Affairs, visited Nepal recently in connection with the Fifth Session of the Pakistan-Nepal Joint Economic Commission, held in Kathmandu on March 29-30,2005.

Government of India is also aware of some press reports suggesting that military supplies from Pakistan to Nepal are under consideration. Government of Nepal is aware of our concerns in this regard. We are seized of the matter and are taking steps as appropriate.

Balance of power in the sub-continent

3133. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K.ANAND:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan being accorded the status of a major Non-Ally of USA has altered the balance of power in the sub-continent; and

(b) if so, what are its implications on Pakistan acquiring conventional weapon, defence preparedness and likely consequences in case of full fledged war with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) With additional weapons and equipment being offered by USA to Pakistan due to grant of Major Non-NATO Ally status, there will be an upgradation in Pakistan's military capability. However, Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's national security.

American Sanctions

3134. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have apprised the US Government that India would not purchase any American arms unless the sanctions imposed on various Indian entries are withdrawn by the US; and